

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-34 are currently pending in the application by this preliminary amendment. No new matter has been added to the application by these amendments and the claims are fully supported by the disclosure as originally filed, such as by claims 1-19, for example.

Conclusion


Applicants believe that all claims now pending in the above referenced application are in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early indication of such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

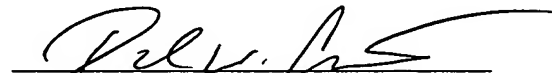
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The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail, Mailing Number ER084381473US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 25th day of November 2003.


Paul W. Churilla